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The Dean's Dinner

A salute to our donors

There aren't enough ways to say it, so Dean Barry B. Boyer — speaking to a roomful of Law School alumni who attended the annual Dean's Dinner on Feb. 13 at Oliver's Restaurant — said it simply:

Thank you.

Thanks, he said, for your support, financial and moral. Thanks for believing in UB Law even in the tough times. Thanks for championing the school's cause in an era of change.

"We appreciate everything you have done for us," the dean told the crowd. "It is a very hard time to try to bring about change in legal education, especially in the State of New York. The fact that we have so many alumni who are loyal to the institution, who care about future generations of lawyers and are willing to help us out to get through this time and extend a hand to those young lawyers, is wonderful."

Dean Boyer pointed to those who have provided leadership as the Law School continues to implement its New Curriculum and further establish itself as an institution dedicated to producing first-rate professionals: UB President William Greiner, "who has the kind of vision and supportiveness that really makes what we're trying to do in the Law School much easier;" Provost Thomas E. Headrick, primary architect of the New Curriculum; Gerald S. Lippes '68, chair of the Dean's Advisory Committee; Vice Dean R. Nils Olsen; and a number of past and current leaders of the UB Law Alumni Association.

In attendance were donors who had contributed at least \$500 to the Law School during the past year, the majority of whom had contributed over \$1,000, and many of whom had contributed \$5,000 or more.

"That is really something special," Dean Boyer said, "that you have understood our goals and problems at the Law School, what we hope to do for our students and the profession, and you have put your money behind us. For that, we are enormously grateful. Without you we would not be anywhere near as strong as we are — and we are going to get a lot better in the future."

"One thing I have learned in five years as dean is that the status of the Law School and the status of many of the law firms are entwined. If we do our jobs together, we will be much stronger than we would be individually. We have tried in many ways to bring some of the realities of practice into the classroom. Through financial support, through a variety of initiatives that we are developing, we are trying to become much closer to the profession than we have been. Our success is going to depend on that — and our students' success is going to depend on that."

Boyer also pointed out some significant fiscal milestones for the Law School. This year's Annual Fund, he said, is on track to reach its goal of \$450,000, a new record. Planned giving, with more than \$2 million contributed to date in this fiscal year, is gaining momentum. Many individuals donate appreciated assets and thereby

avoid capital gains taxes while also obtaining a substantial tax deduction. Some also retain an income for life.

"Many of these contributions," he says, "have been made to establish scholarships that will allow us to continue providing access to those students who cannot afford to pay the tuition themselves but who will make a real contribution in the profession and deserve a chance to become lawyers."

Boyer cited the progress the Law School has made in gaining control over its own tuition.

"Thanks to the help we have gotten from the university and the trustees, we were able to increase our tuition and keep it in our Law School to support our programs."

"If we can keep this momentum up, the future of this Law School is very bright indeed. Considering the quality of our students, the curriculum, faculty, program, and cooperation from the alumni, there is not another law school in the country better-positioned to make a significant difference in legal education — to develop new and better ways of preparing our graduates to practice law in the new century." ■

*Left to right: William A. Gardiner '72,
William C. Reich '74, Jack L. Getman
'58, Catharine M. Venzon '82, Assistant
Dean Ilene R. Fleischmann and Judge
Samuel L. Green '67*



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*Arthur A. Ziller and
Linda J. Marsh '78*



Donald P. Sheldon '59 and Joseph V. Sedita '69

PHOTOS BY MICKEY OSTREICHER '98